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Letters

Two Washington newspapers, two different worlds

I subscribe to both *The Washington Post* and *The Washington Times*. Sometimes I feel as if I'm reading about two different worlds. A relevant example is the coverage in the May 27 editions.

The front-page story in *The Times* reported on the pope's assassination attempt trial in Rome. The defendants are four Turks and three Bulgarians. The prosecution will charge that the conspiracy to murder the pope was planned in 1980 by the Soviet KGB, utilizing the Bulgarian secret police to implement the plan. At the time, the KGB director was Yuri Andropov, who later became the leader of the Soviet Union.

Wow! No wonder this is being

billed as the trial of the century.

But, lo and behold, *The Washington Post* did not give it one line of coverage, even on a back page. Most of the articles, as usual, were direct and indirect criticisms of President Reagan's domestic and foreign policies. *The Post* also gave full coverage to *Pravda's* editorial attacking our Strategic Defense Initiative along with related arms control accusations. The report did not include any rebuttal or response from administration spokesmen.

The Times is consistently on the right on issues and *The Post* is consistently on the left of the political spectrum. This is fine for most concerned citizens who read both news-

papers and then form their own opinions. But most people don't read *The Times*. They depend on *The Post* for accurate and objective news reporting. In the Soviet Union this would be irrelevant. In a pluralistic society, however, it presents a dangerous situation.

One final observation: can you imagine the daily, flaming, vitriolic headlines, editorials, and Herblock cartoons in *The Washington Post* if just one CIA employee had been remotely connected with the assassination attempt of the pope?

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